

**Types of Balkan butterflies. II.
Eastern Large Heath, *Coenonympha rhodopensis* ELWES, 1900:
type locality and lectotype designation**

(Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Satyrinae)

by

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Introduction

The "Eastern Large Heath" was described in 1900 by one of the first explorers of the Bulgarian butterfly fauna, HENRY JOHN ELWES. Originally it was named as follows:

"*C. tiphon*, var. *rhodopensis*, n. var." ELWES, H. J. (1900): On the Butterflies of Bulgaria. – Trans. ent. Soc. London **48** (2): 205 (July 1900).

Original description

The original description of *Coenonympha rhodopensis* presented by ELWES reads (given here in facsimile):

Butterflies of Bulgaria.

205

110. *C. tiphon*, var. *rhodopensis*, n. var.

This butterfly was very common in Rilo Daghl from about 4000 to at least 7000 feet, and was not confined to particular habitats, though commonest on wet mountain meadows. It was out in the middle of June, and fresh specimens could be got a month later. On comparing them with my numerous specimens of *tiphon* from all parts of Europe and Asia I find that they differ from normal European specimens in having in most cases the apical band of fore-wing below obsolete, but some specimens (about one third) show a trace of this band, and some of these cannot be distinguished from two specimens of *tiphon* from Stettin, and are also very close to, but much larger and darker than, what I took in the Altai Mountains (cf. Trans. Ent. Soc., 1899, p. 363).

It was initially treated as a variety of *Coenonympha tiphon* (ROTTEMBURG, 1775), a taxon recently established as a distinct subspecies of *C. tullia* (MÜLLER, 1764). In many major contemporary works it is usually ranked as a different species (HIGGINS & RILEY, 1984: 309; KUDRNA, 1986: 163, 177; D'ABRERA, 1990: 150; ABADJIEV, 1993: 74; TOLMAN & LEWINGTON, 1997: 243; etc.).

Type locality

The exact type locality in Rila Mountains was never mentioned by the author (cf. ELWES, 1900: 205). In order to establish it precisely a citation extracted from NICHOLL's paper (NICHOLL, 1900: 64) is presented here:

Bulgarian Butterflies.

By MARY DE LA B. NICHOLL, F.E.S.

(Concluded from p. 34.)

We did not make a start till June 21st, but as it rained during the greater part of every day, we did not lose our time, and when we reached Samakov we had much to do in getting ponies and men to accompany us into the mountains. It was afternoon before we left Samakov, and we only got about three hours' ride out of the town before dusk, when we encamped at the opening of the fine gorge of the Leva Reka, some seven or eight miles south of the town. Next morning was bright but too windy for collecting, as we rode up the valley. We encamped again about five miles higher up, as the weather looked very threatening, and we were caught by a thunderstorm before we could pitch the tents. We stayed here the whole of the next day, hoping for fine weather—it improved a little, and we went up a side valley to collect, but did not get many insects for lack of sunshine. Our bag consisted of one good *Erebia epiphron*, three *E. oene* (var.), one *A. selene*, several *A. pales* and *C. davus* (var.). June 25th was a tolerable morning, so we started, intending to cross into the Rilska valley and there encamp at the butterfly corner, three miles above the monastery. But storms set in almost immediately, and we could catch scarcely anything. In a lucky gleam of sunshine, I got a specimen of *C. dorilis*, and on the way down the Rilska, took some nice *A. pales* approaching var. *gracca*, and saw one *Colias myrmidone*. We arrived at the monastery drenched, were most hospitably received, and were glad to find a dry sleeping-place, in such wild weather.

It should be clearly noted that the expedition in 1899 to Rila Mts was jointly organised and accomplished by Mrs. MARY DE LA B. NICHOLL and H. J. ELWES. Luckily her paper was written like a diary, an important fact, which helped so much to make clear conclusion about the exact position of the type locality.

Comparing the above citation with the data label (cf lectotype labels bellow) and modern maps the exact locality should be fixed as Rila Mts: Levi Iskar, about 12–13 miles S Samakov: 5000 ft [along the fusion of Levi Iskar and Dolna Leva Reka] [UTM grid reference 34TGM07] (see fig. 1).

Type material and lectotype designation

A lectotype of *Coenonympha rhodopensis* is designated here (fig. 2). It was illustrated also in colour by ABADJIEV (1995: pl. XXXII: figs 1–3).

Lectotype ♂, with labels: (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagh, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 24.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed (on white paper)

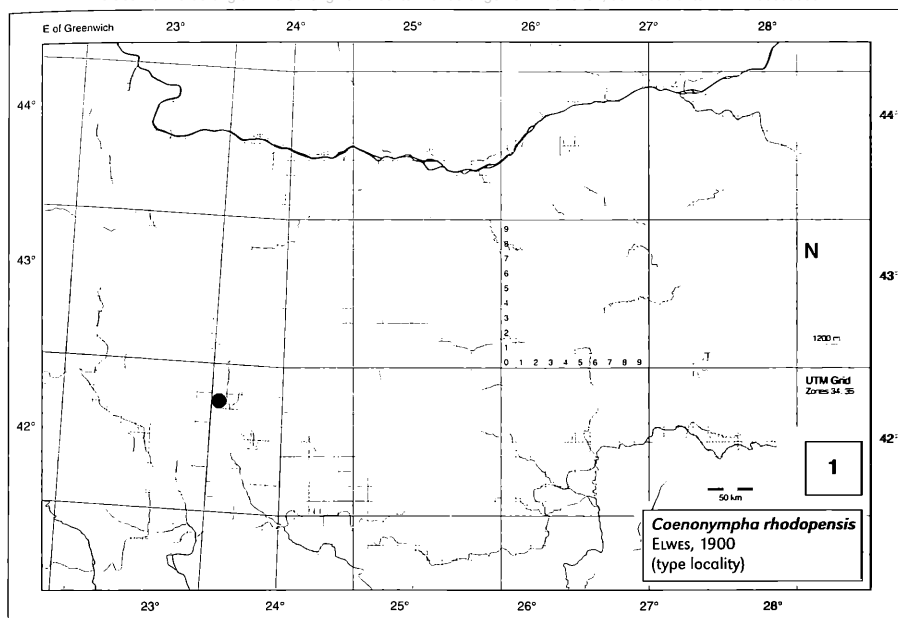


Fig. 1: UTM map of Bulgaria showing the position of the type locality of *Coenonympha rhodopenis* Elwes, 1900.

"Elwes Coll. / 1902–85"; (3) handwritten (on white paper) "*rhodopenis*, / Elw. Type ♂"; (4) circle printed (on white paper with red frame) "Type"; (5) circle printed (on white paper with blue frame) "Syn- / type"; (6) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6264 / *C. tiphon*, / *rhodopenis* / ♂ Elwes"; (7) printed (on white paper) "SYNTYPE / *Coenonympha tiphon* / var. *rhodopenis* / Elwes / det. P. Ackery, 1991."; (8) printed (on white paper) "Illustrated in / Abadjiev, S. 1995 / *Butterflies of Bulgaria* / Vol. 3: Pl. XXXII: Figs 1–3"; (9) printed (on red paper), double framed "LECTOTYPE ♂ / *Coenonympha rhodopenis* / Elwes, 1900 / «*C. tiphon*, var. *rhodopenis*, / n. var.» Elwes, H. J., 1900 / (On the Butterflies of Bulgaria. – / Trans. ent. Soc. London 48 (2): 205 / [line] / S. Abadjiev design. 2000"; in coll. The Natural History Museum [British Museum (Natural History)], London.

Paralectotypes 6 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ with labels:

- [1 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagh, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 6000 ft. 3 7 99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6266. / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenis*, / ♂ Elwes.";
- [2 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagh, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 6000 ft. 12.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6267. / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenis*, / ♂ Elwes.";

- [3 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 24.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6269. / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♂ *Elwes*";
- [4 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 6.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6270. / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♂ *Elwes*";
- [5 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 25.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6271 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis* / ♂ *Elwes*";
- [6 ♂] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 4.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6272 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis* / ♂ *Elwes*";
- [7 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 24.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) circle printed (on white paper with red frame) "Type"; (3) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6265 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♀ *Elwes*"; (4) printed (on white paper) "Illustrated in / Abadjiev, S. 1995 / Butterflies of Bulgaria / Vol. 3: Pl. XXXII: Figs 7-9";
- [8 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 24.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6273 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♀ *Elwes*"; (3) printed (on white paper) "Illustrated in / Abadjiev, S. 1995 / Butterflies of Bulgaria / Vol. 3: Pl. XXXII: Figs 4-6";
- [9 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 3.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6274 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis* / ♀ *Elwes*";
- [10 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 6000 ft. 12.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6275 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis* / ♀ *Elwes*";
- [11 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 6000 ft. 12.7.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6276 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♀ *Elwes*";
- [12 ♀] (1) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "Rilo Dagħ, / S. W. Bulgaria. / 5000 ft. 24.6.99. / H. J. Elwes."; (2) printed with handwritten inscriptions [here italicized] (on white paper) "B.M. TYPE / No.Rh. 6277 / *C. tiphon*, v. / *rhodopenensis*, / ♀ *Elwes*"

Paralectotypes 1-6 and 8-12 with circle printed (on white paper with yellow frame) "Co- / type"; paralectotypes 1-6 and 8-11 with circle printed (on white paper with blue frame) "SYN-

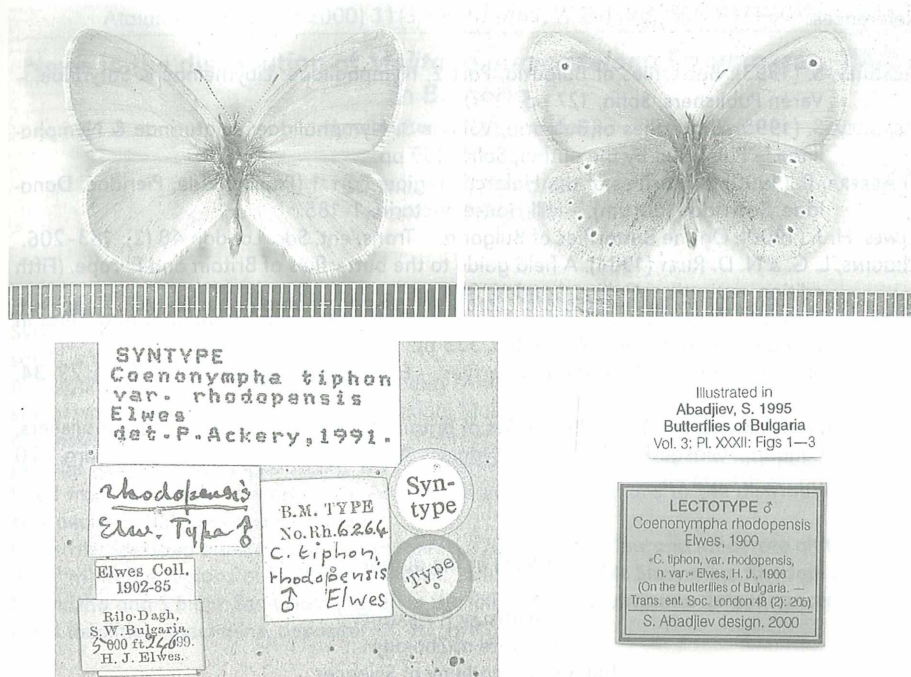


Fig. 2: Lectotype of *Coenonympha rhodopensis* ELWES, 1900: upperside (above, left); underside (above, right) and labels (below).

/ TYPE"; paralectotypes 7 and 12 with circle printed (on white paper with blue frame) "Syn- / type"; all the 12 paralectotypes with (1) printed (on white paper) "Elwes Coll. / 1902-85", (2) printed (on white paper) "SYNTYPE / *Coenonympha tiphon* / var. *rhodopensis* / Elwes / det. P. Ackery, 1991." and (3) printed (on red paper), double framed "PARALECTOTYPE ♂ [♀ respectively] / *Coenonympha rhodopensis* / Elwes, 1900 / «*C. tiphon*, var. *rhodopensis*, / n. var.» Elwes, H. J., 1900 / (On the Butterflies of Bulgaria. - / Trans. ent. Soc. London 48 (2): 205 / [line] / S. Abadjiev design. 2000"; and all in coll. The Natural History Museum [British Museum (Natural History)], London.

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